

EDGEWATER

South side of Lake Street  
between River and Fair Streets  
Cooperstown, Otsego Township  
Otsego County, New York

HABS No. NY 251

HABS  
NY,  
39-COOP,  
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Street Address or Location: South side of Lake Street between River and Fair Streets, Cooperstown, Otsego Township, Otsego County, New York

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Otto, Lake Street, Cooperstown, New York (summer residence)

Brief Statement of Significance: This house, built between 1810 and 1812, was modeled after a colonial residence in Philadelphia, well known to the Cooper family.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Isaac Cooper; Seminary for girls; Theodore Keese; Arthur M. Field; Alfred Clark; D. A. Otto
2. Date of erection: 1810-1812
3. Architect: Not known. Modeled after a colonial residence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, well known to the Cooper family. (Ralph Birdsall, Story of Cooperstown, 1925 - p. 191)
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Contract Fenimore House, Cooperstown, New York: Bargain between I. Cooper and Ebenezer Ward, Cooperstown 1810. Paid \$522.00, for foundation stonework. Bargain between Cooper & Ebenezer Ward, mason, for brick work for Edgewater. I. Cooper to pay \$3.12-1/2 per 1000 brick and \$26.00 for sand. To be done by 1812.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: 1920 some restoration done by Frank Whiting, architect, front porch removed, porches on sides built.
6. Important old views and references: Local History File at New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York. Photographs: 1 interior showing stairway, double semi-circular; 1 showing east side and front; 1 showing the west side.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Cooper family papers.

Prepared by F. Ward - October 1958

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: The fabric of this house is in good condition

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Stone
2. Wall construction: Brick, Flemish bond
3. Chimneys: Four
4. Openings: a. Doorways and doors: Center front has a two-story bay.  
b. Windows and shutters: No shutters. Twelve panes of glass in each window, six in upper sash, six in lower sash.
5. Roof: a. Shape, covering: Gable with tin covering  
b. Cornice, eaves: Plain

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Two stories - circular vestibule
2. Stairways: Double semi-circular stairway that ascends to the upper floor, has scrolled and pierced step ends.
3. Flooring: Painted
4. Wall and ceiling finish: High-ceiled rooms. Paint on plaster
5. Doorways and doors: Elaborately carved wood door caps
6. Trim: Carved woodwork is different in each room.
7. Lighting: Electricity
8. Heating: Central and fireplaces

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Includes about two acres, extends to Otsego Lake, although now traversed by Lake Street, which made its way, by long usage, across the original property. House faces north and is situated on the southwest corner of Lake and River Streets.
2. Enclosures: High wire fence covered with a red climbing rose.
3. Outbuildings: Guest house, smoke house, bath-house and swimming pool.
4. Landscaping: Broad lawn, with old-fashioned garden.